

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the subject application. After entry of the above amendments to the claims, claims 1 and 13 have been amended and claims 10-12, 18 and 20 have been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the above amendments and remarks as set forth herein below.

1. Claims 1-6, 19, 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lawson (US DE 420,206). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In paragraph 6 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The language of claim 18 and intervening claims 10, 11 and 12 have been added to independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 and all claims depending thereon should now be in condition for allowance.

2. Claims 7-11 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawson (U.S. DE 420,206) in view of Cross et al. (U.S. 5,708,983). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In paragraph 6 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten

in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The language of claim 18 and intervening claims 10, 11 and 12 have been added to independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 and all claims depending thereon should now be in condition for allowance.

3. Claims 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawson (U.S. DE 420,206) in view of Cross et al. (U.S. 5,708,983) as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Payne (U.S. 6,052,830). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In paragraph 6 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The language of claim 18 and intervening claims 10, 11 and 12 have been added to independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 and all claims depending thereon should now be in condition for allowance.

Applicant acknowledges that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as set forth in paragraph 6 of the outstanding Office Action.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, it is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that my otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are necessary and hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 11-1243.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 11-1243.

Respectfully submitted,

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